



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, Oregon 97504  
email address: or1l0mb@or.blm.gov

## DECISION RECORD/RATIONALE/FONSI

Hand Piling and Hand Pile Burning for Fuel and Hazard Reduction  
EA # OR1 10-01-37

I. **DECISION:** Implement Alternative 2, the proposed action, as described in Environmental Assessment (EA# OR 110-01-37) for this project. Implementation shall include all project design features described in the environmental assessment.

II. **RATIONALE:** Alternative 2, the proposed action, is selected because it implements the Medford District RMP and the Northwest Forest Plan. It is consistent with the goals and objectives of the BLM's Strategic Plan and the National Fire Plan. Implementing the proposed action will reduce fuel loadings in the involved young stands which will reduce the fire hazard, increase the controllability and reduce the potential impacts should a wildfire occur in these young stands. Protection of these young stands will promote their development into later successional stages. This will promote the management objectives of the land allocations in which the involved units are located (e.g., timber production or accelerated creation of late-successional stands). This action incorporates project design features which minimize short and long term adverse effects of the actions to be implemented. The no treatment (no pile, no burn) zones along stream channels will provide adequate protection to the streams and will not retard attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives.

The Medford District RMP advocates management actions that will diminish the potential for and the adverse affects of wildfire. The project is consistent with BLM Strategic Plan Goal 02.02 which addresses restoration of at-risk resource and maintenance of functioning systems. It is also consistent with the current national effort to reduce wildland fuel hazard conditions.

The No Action Alternative was rejected because it does not meet the intended silviculture and management objectives for the stands.

A 15 day public comment period was provided for the EA and was announced via mailings, a notice published in the Grants Pass Daily Courier, and posting of the EA on the Medford District's website. Two comment letters were received. One noted support of the project although suggested that burn piles be located no closer than 50 feet from stream channels. The second letter included a lengthy comment about the EA document but did not include any site specific information or specific impacts that were not considered.

This decision is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan, the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, and the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manager, Protection

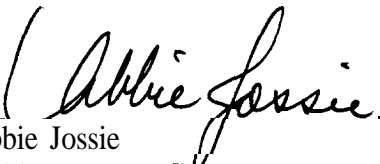
Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001). This decision is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, The Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations.

III. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: On the basis of the information contained in the environmental assessment for the project, it is my determination that the decision stated above does not constitute significant effects to the quality of the human environment. In addition this project does not exceed the range of effects discussed in the EIS documents that the project EA is tiered. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

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In accordance with the BLM Forest Management Regulation 43 CFR 5003.2 (a&c), the effective date of the decision will be the date of publication of the Notice of Decision and FONSI in The Grants Pass Daily Courier. This establishes the date for initiation of the protest period in accordance with 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies.

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Abbie Jossie  
Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area  
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

  
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Date